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hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date set forth below as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Applicants:

Josef P. Debbeins, et al.

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Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Technology Center 2100

Sir:

The accompanying documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. A list of documents on form PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith.

The enclosed documents are part of a PCT International Search Report that issued in a related PCT application. Applicants state that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.



This paper is submitted in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(b) and a fee is not required for consideration of these documents.

Respectfully submitted,

Josef P. Debbins

Dated: January 9, 2004

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